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Around the World

Papandreou's Remark. On Airliner Is Modified

Special to The New York Times

ATHENS, Oct. 4 — A Government spokesman said today that Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou did not approve of the shooting down of the Korean Air Lines passenger jet by the Russians last year, despite his assertion Wednesday that the plane was on an "espionage operation for the American C.I.A."

"Condemning the espionage mission is one thing, and approving the shooting down of the plane is another," the spokesman, Dimitrios Maroudas, told reporters. "The Prime Minister's statement did not mean approval of the downing of the plane."

The Greek leader, who has often provoked criticism from Greece's Western partners for his pro-Soviet policies, made the assertion Wednesday night in a speech before the legislators of his Socialist Party.